nrappfactory

User's manual

Magento extension

BCP - Better Configurable Products

This document describes how to install, configure, and use the extension BCP - Better Configurable Products for the eCommerce system Magento.

Please note: while we try to describe every step as detailled as possible you should already have experience in administrating Magento and extensions. It is recommended to evaluate every extension on a test system before deploying it live to avoid problems.

System requirements:

Magento:	Community Edition 1.3, 1.4, 1.5, 1.6, 1.7 Enterprise Edition 1.10, 1.11, 1.12

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About

This extension enables you to update the configurable product display depending on the selected options for the simple products.

Features

- Display the images of the selected simple product
- Display the attributes of the selected simple product
- Display the description of the selected simple product
- Display the total price of the selected options in the option drop-downs
- The price of the selected simple product is used instead of the options price updates
- Optional display of an ajax spinner during the update
- Lots of options to fine-tune the extension to your needs
- Supports custom options for configurable products and associated simple products
- No template modifications needed (as long as your template is valid xhtml)

Its easy - just create the simple products you want to sell within the configurable product and thats it.

Installation

Please unpack the BCP ZIP archives in the Magento directory. Then clear the Magento cache, and rebuild the flat catalog tables.

Usage

Configure the extension as needed (see below for more information on the options) and then theme the template as needed. Even if you only display configurable products in your store you also need to adjust the simple product template, otherwise the view updates will display the wrong template.

Configuration

You can find the configuration under System > Configuration > Better Configurable Product > Settings

Option	Description
Select the original theme your theme is based on	The BCP extension uses Xpath and CSS selectors to fetch the sections to update.

	That is why, you need to configure the theme your websites look and feel is based on. If you do not know which theme is the right one, just select one after the other and check the results in the front-end for a setting that works. If your theme is very different from the available options, you may need to specify the selector yourself in the Advanced Settings section.
Update the display of the products media section	If you choose "No" the media section of the configurable product will be visible regardless of the option selection. Otherwise the image and the media gallery of the selected simple product will display.
Only update the main image	Set this option to "Yes" if you only want to update the main product image, and keep the media gallery of the configurable product.
Update the display of the products short description	Set to "Yes" to update the short description to reflect the currently selected simple product.
Update the display of the products collateral data	The products collateral information includes the long description and the additional attributes. Set the option to yes if you want to show the selected simple products data.
Keep the long description of the configurable product	Set to "Yes" if you want to keep the long description of the configurable product and only update the rest of the collateral information.
Show out of stock products	If activated, simple products currently out of stock will be shown in the product options drop down on the product detail page. The Magento function *$product->isSaleable()* is used as reference for “out of stock”. Depending on the used Magento version different parameters will be checked (Qty for example)
Make out of stock products selectable in drop down	Enables selecting products currently out of stock. If this option is disabled, products out of stock will be disabled (shown in grey) in the drop down menu and selecting the product is not possible.
Update the price block	Show the price information of the selected simple product, including tier price information if available.
Preload simple product images	If set to yes the main images of all simple

	products are preloaded. This gives a cleaner transition when a simple product is selected. The option has no effect if the image section updates are disabled.
Show spinner while ajax update is in progress	You may display a spinner image while the ajax update is in progress. You may customize it using the template dermodpro/bcp/catalog/product/view/type/configurable.phtml and the image dermodpro/bcp/images/spinner.gif in your skin directory (as usual, copy the original templates into your own theme before modifying them so your changes will not be affected by extension upgrades).
Use the cheapest child product as the default product	If you set this option to "Yes" the cheapest simple product will be selected from the start and displayed as the default when the product page is viewed.
Option Label Price Prefix	Prefix for the price in the option drop-down.
Option Label Price Suffix	Suffix for the price in the option drop-down.
Show the option price label if it is the same as the currently displayed product price	Set the configuration option to "Yes" if you want to display the price on product options with the same price as the current selection.
Unknown Price Option Label	Label to append to the option if further options have to be selected before the price for the variant is known. If you want the image of the selected configurable product to be displayed in the shopping cart, you can find the setting at System > Configuration > Checkout > Shopping Cart (this setting is part of the Magento core, not part of the BCP extension).

Advanced customization

Show lowest price in list/grid view

If you set the cheapest product as default in the list/grid view you can display the price with the prefix “Price from:”. To do this pleas apply the following modification:

Open this file

app/design/frontend/base/default/template/dermodpro/bcp/catalog/product/list.phtml

and insert this snippet into the lines 58 and 102:

```
<?php if ($bcpPriceFrom = Mage::helper('bcp')->getBcpPricePrefix($_product)): ?>
        <span class="bcp_price_from_prefix"><?php echo $bcpPriceFrom; ?
></span>
<?php endif; ?>
```

The text will be display without CSS styles. To change this you can apply style to the CSS class “*bcp_price_from_prefix*".

Advanced configuration settings

If you develop more advanced and customized themes and the default BCP theme selector isn't working anymore, you can specify the DOM and CSS selector for the display page sections that should be updated. To do yo it helps to know a little xpath and CSS. For some advanced setting samples, have a look in the file app/code/community/DerModPro/BCP/etc/config.xml in the configuration node at the bottom.

You can also specify a javascript callback to re-initialize the media section zoom.

Any entries in the "Advanced Settings" override the preconfigured settings from the theme selection drop-down.

Most settings can be overridden on a per-product basis within the "Design" tab of the configurable product. Additionally, you can select an associated default simple product to display instead of the configurable product when the page is loaded.

Caching

In the advanced settings you can specify the response cache time (in seconds).
Server side ajax response caching is enabled if a value larger then zero is specified, and HTML Block caching is enabled, too (in the magento cache management interface).
Client side ajax response caching (in javascript) will also be disabled if you set the configuration value to 0, regardless of the Magento HTML Block caching setting (you may find this useful during development).

Tools / Standard Simple Product

Set Cheapest as Default

Here you have the possibility to set the cheapest simple product for all configurable products as default product. The attribute **default simple product** will be set to the cheapest simple product. Since release 12.10.12 the SKU will be saved as value instead of the product-id.

Unset Default Products:

Here you can undo the changes made with **Set Cheapest as Default.**
The attribute **default simple product** will be set as empty.

Migrate cheapest Products:

Since version 12.10.12 the attribute "Default Simple Product" uses the SKU instead of the product ID. This is needed to fill the attribute on a product import. Here you have the option to migrate your existing products from product ID to SKU. If a version of BCP > 12.10.12 is installed in a shop the first time, no migration is required.

Uninstall

To uninstall the module remove all BCP files:

- app/code/community/DerModPro/BCP
- app/etc/modules/DerModPro_BCP.xml
- app/design/adminhtml/default/default/template/bcp
- app/design/frontend/base/default/layout/bcp.xml
- app/design/frontend/default/default/layout/bcp.xml
- app/design/frontend/base/default/template/dermodpro/bcp
- app/design/frontend/default/default/template/dermodpro/bcp
- skin/frontend/base/default/dermodpro/bcp
- skin/frontend/default/default/dermodpro/bcp
- js/dermodpro/bcp
- app/locale/de_DE/DerModPro_BCP.csv

and execute the following SQL queries:

```
DELETE FROM `eav_attribute` WHERE `attribute_code`='bcp_update_images' LIMIT 1;
DELETE FROM `eav_attribute` WHERE `attribute_code`='bcp_update_short_desc' LIMIT 1;
DELETE FROM `eav_attribute` WHERE `attribute_code`='bcp_update_collateral' LIMIT 1;
DELETE FROM `eav_attribute` WHERE `attribute_code`='bcp_default_product' LIMIT 1;
DELETE FROM `eav_attribute` WHERE `attribute_code`='bcp_default_product_sku' LIMIT
1;
DELETE FROM `eav_attribute` WHERE `attribute_code`='bcp_default_override' LIMIT 1;
DELETE FROM core_config_data WHERE CONVERT( `path` USING utf8 ) LIKE '%bcp%';
DELETE FROM core_resource WHERE CODE='bcp_setup';
```

Rebuild all indexes and clear all caches afterwards.

Updates

Updates for Releases > 12.10.12

Attribute name before v12.10.12	**Attribut name after v12.10.12**	**Attribute code**	**Values**
Default Simple Product	Default Simple Product (deprecated)	bcp_default_product	Product IDs
-	Default Simple Product	bcp_default_product_sku	SKUs

After release 12.10.12 there was an update regarding the attribute “Default Simple Product”. This changed from Product-ID-based values to SKU-based values due to fill the attribute during a product import.

If BCP in version > 12.10.12 is newly installed no migration is necessary.

Otherwise you have to migrate all Product-ID-based values via:
System -> Tools -> Better Configurable Products -> Default Simple Product -> Migrate cheaptest Products
to SKU-based values.

Known issues

Other

If you receive the error "Warning: domdocument::domdocument() expects at least 1 parameter, 0 given...". This is related to an old version of the DomXML extension being loaded from the php.ini. You need "php_dom.dll" and NOT "php_domxml.dll".

Missing dropdow while using required custom options on simple products (Magento CE 1.7)

In Magento CE 1.7 the option selection dropdown for configurable products will disappear if there are required custom options set to all assigned simple products. If you set the custom options on the simple products to optional, everything should work as expected.

Backend Order with Configurable Products

If the simple products of a configurable product has
Custom Options you have to select the desired simple product
on backend order, otherwise you can not select the custom option on the simple.

Support

Our qualified support team is ready to assist you in any questions which might arise during installation, configuration or troubleshooting.

Before filing a request, please make sure you have checked our FAQ pages at www.nr-apps.com/faq for your specific question. You'll find lots of troubleshooting tips and how-to guides there. In case you couldn't find a satisfying answer in our FAQ don't hesitate to contact us by our contact form at nr-apps.com. Please state your order no. in your request. We will get back to you as quickly as possible.

Imprint

Netresearch App Factory AG
Nonnenstraße 11c
04229 Leipzig
Germany

Register court	AG Leipzig HRB 28480
Board:	Michael Ablass Thomas Fleck Thomas Goletz
Chairman of the supervisory board:	Martin Saurer
Phone: **Fax:**	(0341) 47 842 - 0 *(not for support)* (0341) 47 842 - 29
E-Mail:	info@netresearch-app-factory.com